[*English*]

Karwar Port

5927. SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA SHIVAPPA:
SHRI V.LRISHNA RAO:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a persistant demand from the Government of Karnataka to declare the Karwar Port as a major port; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). In view of the existing and proposed facilities at New Mangalaore Port, at present it is not necessary to consider the demand of the Karnataka Government to declare Karwar Port as major port.

Raids on Vegetable Commission Agents in Madras

5928. DR.R. SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director Generai of Income Tax Investigations, Madras has taken up investigations against vegetable commission agents in Madras city;

(b) whether the premises of these agents were raided during January, 1992;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether the income tax officials were assulated by the vegetable vendors; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide adequate security to income tax officials in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) to (d) A survey under section 133A(1) of the Income-tax Act was conducted at the premises of a vegetable trader and commission agent on 28.1.1992 in Madras in the course of which severe resistance was put up by the trader, his employees and other vendors of the area. Some members of the survey party and one of the police constables were also assaulated. The survey party thereupon withdrew and criminal cases were registered. The accused were arrested but were later released by the court on bail on medical grounds.

(e) Suitable administrative steps have been taken in this regard in consultation with the Home Ministry and other Departments as also the state Governments.

Deposits in Small Savings Schemes

5929. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons in small income group, middle income group, upper middle income group and high income group, separately who made deposits in the small savings schemes as on March, 31,1992; and

(b) the total amount invested in small savings schemes by each of these groups during 1990-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). While making deposits in small savings schemes the investors are

not required to indicate their income, hence, the information sought is not available with the collecting offices.

Sambalpur-Rourkela Stretch of National Highway

5931. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of improvement work on the Sambalpur Rourkela stretch of National Highway is very slow;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to expedite the work; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Sambalpur-Rourkela route is not a National Highway, but a part of the state Road system. As such Government of this road is included in the Second Road Improvement Project under Asian Development Bank assistance for which loan has been signed. Tenders for execution of the work have already been received by the state Government and are under evaluation. After award, the project is expected to be completed within four years.

Outflow of Foreign Exchange

5932. SHRI DEBPROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued some directions to check the outflow of foreign exchange from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the outflow of foreign exchange during 1991-92 as compared to 1990-91; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to further reduce the outflow of foreign exchange particularly a check on foreign visits of government officials?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India has issued a number of circular mainly affecting imports to check outflow of foreign exchange. The import compression measures included cash margin requirements, restrictions on sale of foreign exchange for import of capital goods, centralised approval by the Reserve Bank of India, etc.

(c) The outflow of foreign exchange on account of imports during the financial year between April, 1991 to January,1992 was Rs.38,531 crores ($ 15929 million), compared to Rs.35,890 crores ($ 20249 million) during the corresponding period last year.

(d) The foreign visits by Government officials are permitted only when these are considered absolutely necessary with particular reference to trade, aid and foreign policy. Instructions have been issued to all the Ministries/Departments to apply a cut of 20% in their foreign travel Budget for the current financial year.

Per Capita Availability of Cloth

5933. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLAYA GAVIT:

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of cloth in the country particularly in Maharashtra before the commencement of Fifth Five Year Plan period;